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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/892,300	06/26/2001	Manoel Tenorio	020431.0840	2345

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EXAMINER

KRAMER, JAMES A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3627

DATE MAILED: 05/24/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/892,300	Applicant(s) TENORIO, MANOEL	
	Examiner James A. Kramer	Art Unit 3627	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 February 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 1/31/05 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

First, Applicant claims a “plurality of search results” on line 7 of the claim, then on line 9 claims one or more search results. Examiner asserts that a “plurality of search results” can not comprise one search result. As a result of this discrepancy the claim is found to be unclear and indefinite.

Further, line 9 contains the following limitation, “the search results comprising one or more search results.” Examiner finds “search results” comprising “search results” confusing and thus unclear and indefinite.

Examiner notes that based on the Specification it appears Applicant intends to claim:

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“recording presentation information associated with the manner in which a plurality of search results are presented to the buyer, each search result comprising product data from a particular seller, matching one or more search criteria specified in the search query;”

Further, this is how the limitation will be interpreted in this Office Action. Also reference independent claims 12, 23, 34 and 35 with similar limitations and thus similar errors.

Examiner also notes that claims 4, 15, and 26 include the recitation of a second seller. Since the claims do not include a first seller, it is unclear who the second seller is and what differentiates this particular second seller from any of the plurality of sellers claimed in independent claims 1, 12 and 23 respectively. Examiner does not believe Applicant intended to include a second seller, as the dependent claim seems to be directed towards the details of a contract (i.e. contract terms). As such, Examiner will interpret the claims as if the “second seller”, is just “a seller”.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-35, as best interpreted by the Examiner are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Herz et al.

With respect to **claim 1**, Herz et al. teaches determining customized prices and promotions and in particular *recording query information associated with a search query for a buyer of one or more databases containing product data* (e.g. see page 4, paragraph 33).

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Examiner notes that collecting records of the information requested by a shopper, as taught by Herz represents recording query information associated with a search query for a buyer (shopper) of one or more databases containing product data. To further support this position Examiner notes that Herz teaches the shopper requests information from (queries) an offer database (see page 3, paragraph 0022, lines 8-12). The offer database of Herz represents one or more databases containing product information. Further, Examiner notes that Herz teaches the shopper's request for information (search query) may include the use of keywords (for example see page 4, paragraph 0036, lines 5-8 and page 26, paragraph 0258, lines 76-92).

With respect to **claim 1**, Herz further teaches *recording the presentation information associated with the manner in which a plurality of search results are presented to the buyer, each search result comprising data for a product matching one or more search criteria specified in the search query, the search results comprising one or more search results reflecting product data for a particular seller* (see page 5, paragraph 0038, lines 1-9 and page 7, paragraph 0073, lines 17-24 and page 27, paragraph 0260, lines 1-10).

First, Examiner notes presenting selected offers to a shopper by sending text and/or graphics in response to choices made by the shopper (page 5, paragraph 0038, lines 1-9) represents presentation information associated with the manner in which a plurality of search results are presented to the buyer, each search result comprising data for a product matching one or more search criteria specified in the search query, the search results comprising one or more search results reflecting product data for a particular seller. Examiner also notes that the vendors

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of Herz (i.e. sellers) make the offers (page 2, paragraph 0019, lines 15-17) and as such each of the offers is from a particular buyer (seller).

Next, Herz goes on to teach recording the presentation information. For example, page 7, paragraph 0073, lines 17-24 teaches textual attributes of an offer (i.e. presentation information associated with the manner in which a plurality of search results are presented to the buyer). Further, in order for the system of Herz to know that a shopper has shown a past interest in offers for products with specific textual attributes, the system must record the textual attributes of the offer (i.e. must record the presentation information associated with the manner in which a plurality of search results are presented to the buyer).

Further, Examiner notes that clustering a shopper's query results into a virtual mall and then cross correlating shopper's purchasing response in relation to a products location (page 27, paragraph 0260, lines 1-10) represents the concept that the presentation information (a product's location) must be recorded in order to determine the shopping response for each location.

With respect to **claim 1**, Herz teaches *recording selection information associated with the selection by the buyer of a particular search result from among a plurality of search results, the particular search result comprising data for a particular product matching one or more search criteria specified in the search query* (see page 5, paragraph 0039, lines 1-6 and page 27, paragraph 0260, lines 1-10).

Examiner notes that monitoring a shopper's interests as he/she selects products and offers (page 5, paragraph 0039, lines 1-6), represents recording selection information associated with the selection by the buyer. Examiner notes that this monitoring by Herz is done after a user

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enters a search query (page 4, paragraph 0036) and is presented with search results (page 5, lines 0038). As such the selecting monitored by Herz includes the selection of a particular search result from among a plurality of search results, the particular search result comprising data for a particular product matching one or more search criteria specified in the search query.

Additionally, Examiner notes that clustering a shopper's query results into a virtual mall and then cross correlating shopper's purchasing response (i.e. selection by the buyer of a particular search result) in relation to a products location (page 27, paragraph 0260, lines 1-10) represents the concept that the selection of an item must be recorded in order to determine the shopping response (i.e. selection) for each location.

With respect to **claim 1**, Herz teaches *providing at least some of the recorded query information, presentation information or selection information to the particular seller to allow the particular seller to assess one or more aspects of its product data relative to product data of other sellers* (page 27, paragraph 0260, lines 1-10 and page 29, paragraph 0278).

Examiner starts by noting that the determination of better shelf space includes recording presentation and selection information, as described above (see page 27, paragraph 0260, lines 1-10). Thus providing a pricing structure for better shelf space to merchants represents providing **at least some** of the information to a seller to allow the seller to assess one or more aspects of its product data (shelf location) relative to product data (shelf space) of other sellers.

Further, Herz teaches vendors sharing their databases to enhance each others' databases of shopper profiles (page 29, paragraph 0278). Examiner notes, that while Herz's specific intention is to group shoppers, the sharing of databases among vendors would allow the vendors

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to assess the aspects (i.e. how shoppers react to the presentation) of their products relative to each other.

With respect to **claim 1**, Examiner notes that the architecture of the system of Herz is taught on page 3, paragraphs 0021 and Figure 1. In particular the architecture includes processing units that execute program instructions stored in memory units.

With respect to **claim 2**, Herz teaches *wherein the one or more databases comprise a shared product data repository containing product data for a plurality of products available from a plurality of sellers* (page 3, paragraph 022, lines 8-14 and page 27, paragraph 0260 and page 34, paragraph 0315, line 17).

Examiner notes that Herz's offer database represents a shared product data repository (page 3, paragraph 022, lines 8-14). Further Examiner notes that Herz teaches the custom construction of the invention of a custom electronic shopping mall layout (page 27, paragraph 0260 and page 34, paragraph 0315, line 17). Examiner notes that a shopping mall construction would include that the database include a plurality of offers (products) available from a plurality of sellers.

With respect to **claim 3**, Herz teaches *wherein the server is operable to provide information to the particular seller by communicating the information to the particular seller substantially immediately following the selection of the particular search result by the buyer* (page 5, paragraph 0039). Examiner notes Herz teaches as the user considers and selects

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products, the system monitors the shopper and updates a user's demand summary. In other word, the system updates a user profile in real time as the user interacts with the system. Thus the information is accessible by the seller (communicated to the seller) substantially immediately following the selection by the buyer.

With respect to **claim 4**, Herz teaches *wherein the server is further operable to record contract information reflecting one or more terms of a contract between a buyer and a seller following the selection of the particular search result by the buyer, the particular search result reflecting product data of the seller* (page 2, paragraph 0019, lines 1-15).

Examiner notes that Herz defines offer as the contractual terms of an offer that one party might make to another. Therefore, as Examiner has illustrated that Herz teaches the recording of offer presentation and offer selection and since an offer represents contract information reflecting the terms of a contract between a buyer and a seller, then Examiner has proved that Herz teaches recording contract information reflecting the terms of a contract between a buyer and a seller.

With respect to **claim 5**, Herz teaches *wherein the query information reflects one or more product attribute values and one or more seller attribute values specified in the search query* (see page 4, paragraph 0036 and page 26, paragraph 0258, lines 76-92).

Examiner notes that "dress shirts" (page 4, paragraph 0036) represents a product attribute value. Further, Examiner notes that query terms can also indicate a seller attribute value, like the name of the seller, (e.g. Lloyd's indicating, Lloyd's of London) (page 26, paragraph 0258, lines 76-92).

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With respect to **claim 6**, Herz teaches *wherein*:

*the presentation information reflects a position of a search result for the particular seller within an ordered display of the search results; and
the selection information reflects a position of the selected search result within the ordered display of the search results*

(see page 27, paragraph 0260, lines 1-10).

Examiner once again notes that that clustering a shopper's query results into a virtual mall and then cross correlating shopper's purchasing response in relation to a products location (page 27, paragraph 0260, lines 1-10) represents the concept that the presentation information (a product's location) and selection information (purchasing response) must be recorded in order to determine the relative purchase rates for each location.

With respect to **claim 7**, Herz teaches *wherein the presentation information reflects one or more buyer-specified sort criteria used to sort the search results, each sort criterion selected from the group consisting of a product attribute, a product attribute value, a seller attribute and a seller attribute value* (see page 4, paragraph 0036 and page 26, paragraph 0258, lines 76-92). Examiner notes Herz teaches the buyer progressively narrowing a search using a keyword such as "dress shirts" (product attribute) would be reflected in the presentation information.

With respect to **claim 8**, Herz teaches *wherein the selection information reflects at least one of*:

*The number of search results considered by the buyer; and
Whether the buyer considered one or more search results for a particular seller*
(see page 5, paragraph 0039, lines 1-6)

Examiner notes that "as the shopper considers and selects products and offers the system monitors the shoppers interested in various offers" represents whether the buyer considered one

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or more search results for a particular seller. Further Examiner notes that Herz need only meet this one criteria to anticipated claim 8, as claim 8 states “at least one of”.

With respect to **claim 9**, Herz teaches *wherein the selection information reflects at least one of:*

One or more product attribute values or seller attribute values for one or more search results for the particular seller considered but not selected by the buyer; and

One or more product attribute values or seller attribute values for the search result selected by the buyer;

(see page 5, paragraph 0039, lines 1-6 and page 26, paragraph 0259, lines 1-20)

Examiner notes that combination of monitoring a shopper as he/she considers and selects offers (page 5, paragraph 0039, lines 1-6) and determining an association between an offer and the query terms used to find that offer (page 26, paragraph 0259, lines 1-20) represents recording selection information that reflects a product attribute for an offer both considered and selected by the shopper (buyer).

With respect to **claim 10**, Herz teaches *wherein the selection information excludes product attribute values and seller attribute values for the search result selected by the buyer that are to be kept in confidence from sellers other than the seller associated with the selected search result* (see page 29, paragraph 0278)

Herz teaches vendors sharing their databases to enhance each others' databases of shopper profiles (page 29, paragraph 0278). Examiner notes that this represents each vendor has information for himself or herself. In other words, the vendors are excluded from information related to selections unless they were the selected vendor.

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With respect to claim 11, Herz teaches, *wherein the selection information reflects at least one of:*

A position of the selected search result within the plurality of search results presented to the buyer; and

One or more reasons for the position, relative to the search result selected by the buyer of a search result for a particular seller.

(see page 27, paragraph 0260, lines 1-10)

Examiner notes that determining the relative purchase rate for a product at different locations includes a position of the selected search result within the plurality of search results presented to the buyer. Further Examiner notes that Herz need only teach one of these limitation to anticipate claim 11, since claim 11 recites “wherein the selection information reflects at least one of.”

Examiner notes that claims 12-35 are rejected similar to claims 1-11. Reference table below for a breakdown of how each of claims 12-35 relates to one of claims 1-11.

Claim 1	Claim 12	Claim 23	Claim 34	Claim 35
Claim 2	Claim 13	Claim 24		
Claim 3	Claim 14	Claim 25		
Claim 4	Claim 15	Claim 26		
Claim 5	Claim 16	Claim 27		Claim 35
Claim 6	Claim 17	Claim 28		Claim 35
Claim 7	Claim 18	Claim 29		
Claim 8	Claim 19	Claim 30		Claim 35
Claim 9	Claim 20	Claim 31		Claim 35
Claim 10	Claim 21	Claim 32		

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Claim 11	Claim 22	Claim 33		
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Response to Arguments

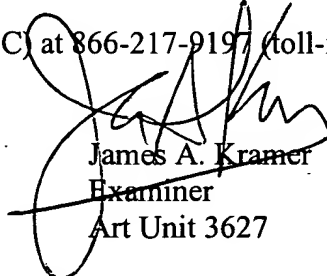
Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-35 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James A. Kramer whose telephone number is (571) 272 6783. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday (8AM - 5PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Chilcot can be reached on (571) 272 6777. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


James A. Kramer
Examiner
Art Unit 3627

5/19/05

jak